

Coniston Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Coniston Parish Council Held at Coniston Primary School, Coniston at 7pm on Monday, 15th November 2021

Present: Councillor T Coward (Chair)
Councillors – H Troughton, J Buller, J Airey, C Sargeant
Clerk – M Dearnley

In attendance: Mr Derek Adams

| Minute Number | | Action By |
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| 350/2021 | <p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Atkinson.</p> | |
| 351/2021 | <p>Requests for Dispensations</p> <p>None.</p> | |
| 352/2021 | <p>Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Agenda items</p> <p>The Parish Council is Custodian Trustee of the Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum.</p> | |
| 353/2021 | <p>Minutes</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th October 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record.</p> | |
| 354/2021 | <p>Public Participation</p> <p><u>County Councillor</u></p> <p>Councillor Brereton submitted a report to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumbria County Council had submitted a Bus Service Improvement Plan to the Department for Transport. This plan is accessible on the county website. • Local Government Reorganisation, work was progressing. • B4RN for High Furness (reported on separately) • Highways, Councillor Brereton asked for issues around potholes, blocked gullies, etc. to be reported on the County Council portal. • Councillor Brereton has Community Grant Funds and Local Members' Highways Funding for application from members of the community. | |

District Councillors

It had been confirmed at recent South Lakeland District Council meeting that the new unitary authority will be named Westmorland and Furness and it will have 65 councillors to represent one of the largest authorities in England. Elections to the Shadow Authority will be held in May 2022 and the new authority will come into being on the 1st April 2023. There is a strong degree of collaborative working to make things work well.

Lake District National Park

Sara Spicer confirmed that there would be teams working to repair various paths in and around the village, including Old Furness Road, the path from Monk Coniston to the village, and the area on Lake Road by the bridge.

National Trust

Mr Moffat provided a report which included:

- Two vacant properties in the parish which are due to be renovated before new tenants are found,
- Book Crag Farm changed tenants on 1st November 2021,
- Steam Yacht Gondola is off the water, all indoor sites are closed for the winter, outdoor sites, such as Tarn Hows, remain busy especially in good weather,
- Flood damage from the half-term floods was managed,
- The focus during the winter will be forestry management, felling and removing dozens of hectares of larch, and ash.

Coniston Business Forum

Mr Rutland indicated that he was keen to work with the Coniston Christmas Lights Committee to raise funds toward the maintenance and renewal of the village's Christmas Lights. He was supportive of the new Parish Council website and its ability to raise funds for the Amenities Fund.

Councillors attending the Institute Committee meeting

Councillor Sargeant gave an overview of the work of the Institute and Museum at this time. This included lighting issues in the Reading Room, drainage issues, and successful live music concerts organised by Sam Clarke. He also, expressed the Institute's concern that the Parish Council had not returned to the Reading Room as its regular meeting place. The clerk explained the rationale was based on advice received, the suitability of available venues and the responsibility a public body has to ensure that it holds public meetings in accordance with best practice during a national health emergency.

Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust

Mr Cameron informed the meeting that Cumbria Choice would be finding tenants for the houses on Yewdale Road after Christmas. There is likely to be a road closure to enable the houses to be linked to the electricity grid.

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| 355/2021 | <p>Participation from members of the public</p> <p>There was none.</p> | |
| 356/2021 357/2021 358/2021 | <p>Planning Applications</p> <p>There were no planning applications to consider.</p> <p>NOTED: Councillors noted the following Notice of Grants of Planning Permission:</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5757</u> Location: Boon Crag Farm, Coniston, LA21 8AQ Proposal: Compliance repairs and maintenance to farmhouse and agricultural buildings. Modernisation of kitchen/bathroom, internal decoration within farmhouse</p> <p>NOTED: Councillors noted the following Notice of Refusal of Planning Permission:</p> <p><u>Reference: 7/2021/5711</u> Location: Lands Field, Yewdale Road, Coniston Proposal: Change of use to seasonal car park and associated works</p> | |
| 359/2021 | <p>Broadband for the Rural North (B4RN)</p> <p>NOTED: Councillor Brereton reported that the project has met with a setback, but that work is being undertaken to ensure that broadband connectivity for the rural and more isolated parts of the district will be addressed.</p> | |
| 360/2021 | <p>Coniston Maintenance, Parking and Highways</p> <p>NOTED: The Parish Council were saddened to hear that Mr Workman, the Coniston Lengthsman, will be stepping down from this post. Councillors agreed that having Mr Workman in post had been a boon to the parish, both in terms of the material benefit he brought through his job, but also through his pleasant and outgoing character. His will be a difficult vacancy to fill.</p> | |
| 361/2021 | <p>Public Toilet Renovations</p> <p>RESOLVED: To write to the Rawdon Smith Trust as the largest single donor to the renovation fund to update them on what has been undertaken and what we are hoping to achieve in the New Year.</p> | MD |
| 362/2021 | <p>Coniston Parish Council Website</p> <p>NOTED: Councillor Buller reported that the website is nearing completion. There is a new feature, a 'donate' facility which will make it possible for people to donate toward the Coniston Amenities Fund and for Gift Aid to be reclaimed.</p> | |

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| 363/2021 | <p>NOTED: Councillor Buller presented the ideas for a new Coniston Parish Council logo. These were all given careful consideration and a selection which contained ideas that might be utilised in a logo were chosen to be forwarded to the designer. The draft logo will be presented at a future meeting.</p> | JB |
| 364/2021 | <p>Safer Lakes</p> <p>NOTED: There were no significant issues to report.</p> | |
| 365/2021 | <p>Climate Focus</p> <p>NOTED: The grass verge along Old Hawkshead Road to the left of the lych gate into the graveyard had been prepared and planted in over 700 bulbs. A grass strip has been commissioned to retain soil; arrangement will be made to remove the detritus. All work has been paid for by environment-specific grants.</p> | |
| 366/2021 | <p>First Aid/Defibrillators</p> <p>Judith Myers, Coniston First Responders, attended the meeting and provided a verbal report. There are presently four responders, but there are volunteers being processed who are due to start training soon.</p> <p>Historically, the fixed-point defibrillators were removed from their locations to ensure that all First Responders had a mobile unit. Mrs Myers had undertaken an initial survey and found that there were many units distributed around the parish, but there were restrictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • several were not accessible unless the person in need was a customer of the establishment which had purchased the equipment e.g. Park Coppice Caravan Park; • others were accessible whilst the establishment was open e.g. Coniston Sports and Social Club; whereas, • others were fully accessible e.g. John Ruskin High School, Fire Station, and the Coniston Tourist Information Centre. <p>Mrs Myers stressed that the location and accessibility of defibrillators was secondary to the widespread understanding that when in need people should call 999 who would in turn call upon the First Responders.</p> <p>The Chair expressed her thanks and appreciation for the work that the First Responders undertake.</p> | |
| 367/2021 | <p>Queen's Platinum Jubilee</p> <p>The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be celebrated over the weekend Thursday, 2nd June to Sunday, 5th June 2022. Councillor Troughton will work with local schools, churches, clubs, organisations and all other local groups to co-ordinate the village's efforts and work toward this event's success.</p> | HT |

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| 368/2021 | <p>Flooding and Flood Preparedness</p> <p>The Chair expressed her thanks to Councillor Sargeant for the work he undertook investigating the recent flooding along Shepherd's Bridge Road. There will be further work undertaken including a visit to the Resilience Store to ensure that sufficient resources are available to those in need.</p> | |
| 369/2021 | <p>Streetlighting</p> <p>There has been a major failure in the streetlights in Coniston; this might be due to a problem with timers in the streetlamps. This has been reported through the County Council's website, however, this has proven to be both frustrating and ineffective.</p> <p>There are particular issues in relation to the lighting of the route into the village for residents at Holly Howe and the new houses on Yewdale Road. Highways are to be asked to assess the level of lighting on the two roads to identify if they consider it safe and suitable for the needs of users.</p> | MD |
| 370/2021 | <p>Councillor Vacancy</p> <p>The advert to fill the councillor vacancy has been published on local Facebook Groups more than once, but no one has come forward to express an interest in filling the post.</p> <p>Councillor Airey announced his intention to resign before Christmas. The Chair thanked him for his service during what had been a testing time for the whole Parish.</p> | |
| 371/2021 | <p>Councillor Matters</p> <p><u>Councillor Sargeant</u> Informed that Parish Council that Jean and Leigh Edwards were leading on the proposal to establish a Community Orchard in Coniston.</p> <p><u>Councillor Coward</u> Asked that a letter of thanks and appreciation be written to the Womens Institute for the poppy display they had created at St Andrew's in time for Remembrance Day.</p> <p>Confirmed that the donation from Lakeland 100 had been received enabling the Coniston Amenities Fund to meet to distribute funds in accordance with the published policy.</p> | MD |
| 372/2021 | <p>Financial Matters</p> <p>NOTED: The following receipts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet collection (22.9.21) £230.00 • Lakeland Trails donation £500.00 | |
| 373/2021 | <p>RESOLVED: To authorise payment of the following accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr M Dearnley (Salary and backdated pay award) £503.87 | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr M Dearnley (Home Working Allowance) £20.00 • Mr M Dearnley (Reimbursement: Land Registry Fee) £6.00 • Mr M Dearnley (Reimbursement: Native bulbs, etc.) £435.95 • Mr M Dearnley (Reimbursement: Card) £2.25 • Jigsaw (October Cleaning) £525.50 • Coniston Institute (Room Hire, 23.8.21) £15.00 • Lake District National Park Authority (Wayleave) £1.00 • Ben Ireton (Groundwork) £75.00 • CALC (Training) £40.00 | |
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| 374/2021 | Correspondence | |
| | RESOLVED: Councillors noted the following e-mails: | |
| | Lake District National Park Authority | Temporary Closure of paths: motor rallies 2021-22 |
| | South Lakeland District Council | Elections: expiry of 14 day notice period Casual Vacancy – Co-option Press Release: Civic Society Design Award for council and park volunteers Press Release: Funding agreed to reduce inequalities in South Lakeland Press Release - Transformation work supports Covid response Parish Precepts 2022/23 Council Agenda - 11 November 2021 Press Release: Five fridges fly-tipped in Lyth Valley |
| | Cumbria County Council | Press Release: Nearly 3,000 new cases of COVID in Cumbria last week Cumbrian COVID cases remain high as hospital admissions rise New COVID-19 infections fall following half-term Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans Follow-up Public Consultation |
| | Cumbria Constabulary | Weather Alert – Flooding October 2021 - The Lakes & Lakes rural |
| | Hawkshead Parish Council | Minutes Agenda 16.11.21 |
| | Torver Parish Council | Agenda 4th November & October draft minutes |
| | Lakes Parish Council | Agenda and Draft Minutes Letter to Mr Little & Mr McKinley re: Traffic Problems |
| | Cumbria Association of Local Councils | Local Government Reorganisation - Judicial Review update Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Newsletter - 20 October Policy Consultation Briefing - Environmental Permitting Regulations Arrangements in case of flooding Cumbria in Bloom November Newsletter & 2021 AGM Connecting Cumbria Newsletter - November 2021 |

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| | | Kind Cumbria Day 2021 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Newsletter - 5 November | |
| | Windermere and Bowness Town Council | Response to Lakes Parish Council letter to Mr Little & Mr McKinley re: Traffic Problems | |
| | Rural Services Network | The Rural Bulletin - 19 October 2021 The Rural Bulletin - 26 October 2021 The Rural Bulletin - 2 November 2021 Rural Funding Digest - November 2021 The Rural Bulletin - 9 November 2021 | |
| | Grizedale Arts | Lake District Farmer's Arms Wednesday Community Lunch | |
| | Coniston Institute | A Night with The Campbells - 13th November 202 | |
| | Action for Health & Mental Health | Provider Forum Bulletin | |
| | Charities Commission | The Coniston Institute and Ruskin Museum Charitable Status | |
| | K2B | Keswick 2 Barrow walk 2022 – 7 th May 2022 | |
| | Cllr Matt Brereton | Update and Casework | |
| | Castles and Coasts | Yewdale Road scheme, Coniston - updates | |
| | Coniston Water Association Meeting | Agenda and Minutes | |
| | Bay Health and Care Partners | Stakeholder Newsletter Issue 5 | |
| | Coniston and Crake Benefice | Coniston and Crake News - December Edition | |
| 375/2021 | Next Meeting | | |
| | The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Monday, 20 th December 2021 at Coniston Primary School. | | |

The meeting closed at 9:01pm

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Date

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Signed & Approved by (Chair)

..... Date Chair Initials